MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know whether the Director is now exercising his functions as Patron?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Yes. His functions are very few under the rules.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): In answer to part (*b*) may I know the date on which proposals were submitted for the consideration of Government?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): 14th September 1934.

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): Are there applications for withdrawal by the members?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Such applications do not come to me.

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): Was it compulsory on the part of teachers to become members of the fund?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): No.

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): Was any force brought to bear on the teachers to become members of the fund?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): No.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): In answer to part (*c*) may I know whether all members make contributions?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot say whether the members given in the answer are at the moment members. But such of them as are members make their contributions.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): May I know, is there permission to make the Divisional Inspector President of the fund?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Yes.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): May I know how this balance was invested and where?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot give the member a detailed statement. But I understand they are mainly invested in local banks.

Road from Ariyittakunnu Bungalow to First Bridge.

102. *MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they or the P. W. D. have received petitions from the people of Nedunganda (Chirayinkil taluk) complaining against the neglected condition of the road from the Ariyittakunnu Bungalow to First Bridge and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the action taken upon them?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*):

(*a*) Yes.

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(*b*) An estimate for metalling the road had been prepared by the Executive Engineer and it is under scrutiny by the Chief Engineer.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know the number of petitions received by Government regarding the neglected condition of the road?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): Several.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Can the member say the earliest of the representations received by him?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I have to look into the records.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Is the member aware that a former Dewan inspected the spot once?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): Yes, in 1932.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know whether he received a petition on the spot?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): Yes.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Is the member aware that the road is lying along the banks of the canal?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): Yes.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): And that during the rainy season traffic is obstructed?

MR. G. B E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): Not to that extent depicted by the member.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Will the member kindly consider to make improvements on the road at the earliest opportunity?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): An estimate has been sanctioned and when we have funds, the matter will be considered.

Tube wells in the Chirayinkil Taluk.

103. *MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that good drinking water is not available in the coastal regions of Chirayinkil taluk

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, what action has been taken in the matter; and

(*c*) why the sinking of two tube wells, one at Kayikkara and the other at Nedunganda, is left unfinished?

MR. G. B. E TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) An estimate was sanctioned for sinking two tube wells at Kayikkara and Kavil Vattam and pipes were sunk to a depth of 81 feet. But the water was found to be saltish. Further deepening is in progress.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know from the Government when the two tube wells in the Chirayinkil taluk, one at Kayikkara and the other at Nedunganda was started sinking?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): Sometime in 1931. I am not sure of the exact date.

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